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Annual Report 1990-91

Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat

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Saskatchewan Senior Citizens' Provincial Council

Letters of Transmittal

Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat for the period ending March 31, 1991.

Sincerely,

Janice MacKinnon
Minister responsible for Seniors

93-00162/

Letters of Transmittal

Honourable Janice MacKinnon
Minister responsible for Seniors

Dear Madam:

On behalf of the staff of the Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat, I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report for the period ending March 31, 1991.

The Annual Review of the Saskatchewan Senior Citizens' Provincial Council is included as part of the Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat.

The Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat serves as a single "window into government" for seniors. Both the Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat and the Saskatchewan Senior Citizens' Provincial Council are dedicated to ensuring a better future for Saskatchewan seniors.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Perrins

Dan Perrins
Secretary

Honourable Janice MacKinnon
Minister responsible for Seniors

Dear Madam:

I am pleased to present to you the 1990-91 Annual Review of the Saskatchewan Senior Citizens' Provincial Council.

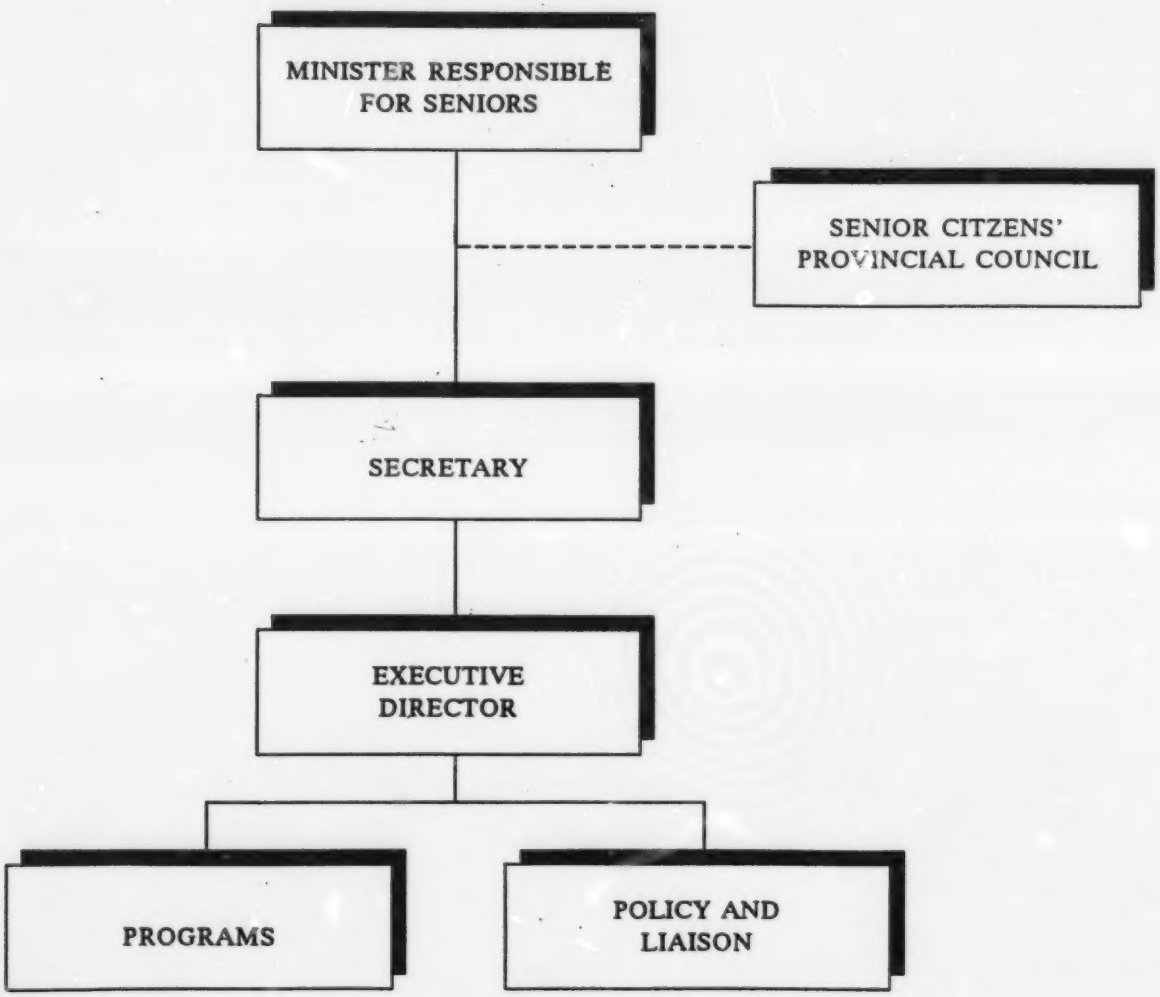
Council had a busy year in 1990-91. We welcomed several new members, began to establish a closer liaison with seniors' groups, and focused our energies on key priorities.

Respectfully submitted,

Madge McKillop

Madge McKillop
Chairperson

Organization Chart
Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat
March 31, 1991



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Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat

The Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat completed its first full year of operation as a stand-alone agency in 1990-91. The Secretariat serves as a focal point within the provincial government for seniors' issues. In this capacity, the Secretariat serves as a "window into government" for seniors.

Secretariat staff assisting seniors with their applications for the Senior Citizens' Heritage Program.

The activities undertaken during 1990-91 may be categorized into three responsibility areas: programs, policy and liaison, and information.

Programs

Saskatchewan Income Plan

The Saskatchewan Income Plan (SIP), first implemented in 1975-76, provides monthly benefits to low-income seniors. Benefits are payable to seniors who have little or no income other than the Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement paid by the federal government. Also known as the provincial supplement, the Saskatchewan Income Plan serves as a "top up" to the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement. No application is necessary since benefits are based on the amount of Guaranteed Income Supplement received by a senior.

The maximum monthly benefits payable in 1990-91 were $80 for a single senior and $135 for a senior couple. On average, 22,154 seniors received benefits each month under the Saskatchewan Income Plan, for a total expenditure of $13,317,674.

Table 1
Saskatchewan Income Plan, 1986-87 to 1990-91

	Actual Expenditures	Average Caseload
1986-87	$10,738,710	24,614
1987-88	12,787,625	25,654
1988-89	14,175,093	25,942
1989-90	15,110,914	25,377
1990-91	13,317,674	22,154

Source: Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat files.

Senior Citizens' Heritage Program

The Senior Citizens' Heritage Program assists low and middle income seniors to maintain their independence by providing unconditional grants based on income levels. The program was introduced in 1986.

Table 2
Senior Citizens' Heritage Program,
Benefit Levels

Total Annual Income	Grants	
	Single	Couple
$25,001 to $30,000	$250	$350
$25,000 and under	500	700
$30,000 and under living in public housing	200	400

Source: Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat files.

During the period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991, grants were issued to 69,121 senior households for an average benefit of $510.33 and a total expenditure of $35,274,225.

Table 3
Senior Citizens' Heritage Program,
1986-87 to 1990-91

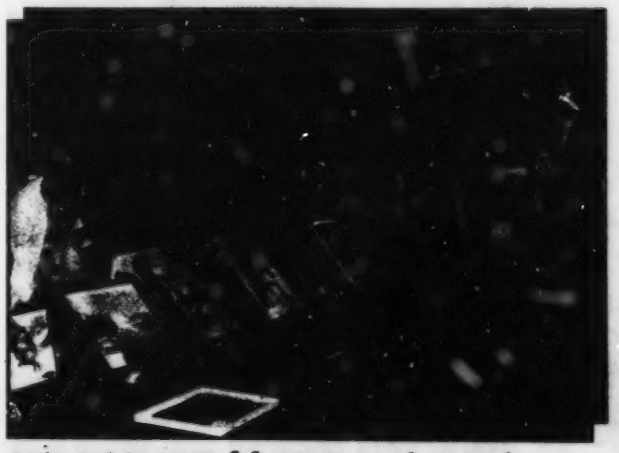
	Actual Expenditures	Number of Households	Number of Beneficiaries
1986-87	$39,190,800	75,168	106,892
1987-88	37,706,561	71,892	102,024
1988-89	37,602,600	71,905	101,440
1989-90	36,824,250	71,147	99,496
1990-91	35,274,225	69,121	95,667

Source: Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat files.

Grants for Senior Citizens' Services

The Grants for Senior Citizens' Services offers assistance to organizations providing services to senior citizens. The following grants were paid during the period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991:

- Operating grants totalling $823,117 to 348 senior activity centres and seniors' organizations.
- Operating grants totalling $47,600 to two provincial seniors' organizations.
- Transportation grants totalling $75,186 to 16 transportation projects.
- Construction grants totalling $157,763 to 28 senior activity centres.



Senior activity grants help support a wide range of activities.

Table 4
Grants for Senior Citizens' Services,
1986-87 to 1990-91

	Actual Expenditures	Number of Grants
1986-87	$1,195,790	392
1987-88	1,031,363	401
1988-89	1,116,032	358
1989-90	1,072,694	389
1990-91	1,103,666	394

Source: Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat files.

A recognition component was implemented during the year. Each senior activity centre received a "Golden Citation" in appreciation for promoting a better quality of life for seniors. In addition, plaques were presented to a number of senior activity centres at the grand opening of new or renovated facilities.

Policy and Liaison

The Seniors' Secretariat liaised with several organizations representing seniors. During the year, staff met with seniors in 86 senior activity centres throughout the province. The Seniors' Secretariat was represented at the annual meetings of the Saskatchewan Seniors Association Incorporated and the Senior Citizens "Action Now" Association Incorporated. Liaison was maintained with other provincial organizations such as the Saskatchewan Seniors' Mechanism as well as local organizations including the Saskatoon and Regina Councils on Aging. Staff also attended the inaugural meeting of the Saskatchewan Institute of Seniors - One Voice. The Seniors' Secretariat works closely with Health and Welfare Canada at the local and national levels. Regular contact is maintained with staff of the federal Seniors Secretariat as well as those involved in various federal programs including Discover Choices, New Horizons, Income Security and the Seniors Independence Program.

The Seniors' Secretariat liaised with municipal governments on local issues of concern to seniors. Staff members participated in the Moose Jaw Mayor's Task Force on Aging. Input was also provided to the Regina Mayor's Task Force on Access.

The Seniors' Secretariat worked closely with the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council providing research and policy support. During the year, a number of topics were analyzed including elder abuse, transportation and care for the home caregiver.

Elder abuse is an emerging issue and a priority concern of the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council. Public awareness and education about elder abuse was determined to be a first step. The Seniors' Secretariat forwarded approximately 80 letters and summary notes of the first national Elder Abuse and Crime Conference (Toronto, January, 1991) to seniors' organizations, government departments, police, family service bureaux, transition houses, medical associations, social workers' association, legal associations, clergy and other people specifically interested in elder abuse. Other information was provided to financial institutions, the media, universities and various non-government organizations. Throughout the process, the Seniors' Secretariat was able to network with individuals and organizations concerned about elder abuse.

Information

The Saskatchewan Seniors' Secretariat serves as a source of information to seniors and the general public as well as other government departments. Approximately 1,500 calls on a wide range of topics are received each month on the toll-free telephone line. The Seniors' Secretariat also maintains a Resource Centre on Aging.

The inaugural issue of **Grey Matters** was published in the summer of 1990. This quarterly newsletter provides other government agencies with a combination of news, articles and reports pertinent to serving an aging population as well as information on the activities of the Seniors' Secretariat and the Senior Citizens' Provincial Council.

The Secretariat's display is one way of making information about provincial programs and services available to seniors.

Saskatchewan Senior Citizens' Provincial Council

The Senior Citizens' Provincial Council was established in 1975 by the Government of Saskatchewan.

The membership of the Council includes a part-time Chairperson and up to 14 members-at-large from various parts of the province. Four-fifths of the members must be senior citizens. Council members are appointed by the Minister responsible for Seniors.

Purposes of Council

Council is an advisory body which offers advice to government. Specifically, the purposes of the Council are to:

- Represent the views of seniors across the province to government through the Minister responsible for Seniors.
- Provide for and foster "grassroots" input from senior citizens.
- Seek to identify senior citizens' needs, problems and aspirations.
- Advise the Minister responsible for Seniors on matters affecting seniors referred to Council for study, review, and recommendation.
- Act as an advocate for seniors by backing recommendations with fact-finding and research.

Council Highlights

- Held four Council meetings.
- Reviewed Overview of Indian and Metis Education in Saskatchewan prepared by Seniors' Secretariat.
- Set priorities for the year including: Care of the Home Caregiver; Elder Abuse; Consumer Information, particularly safe use of medicines.
- Recommended June 3-9, 1990 as Seniors' Week with the theme "Seniors as Part of the Family and Community."
- Encouraged government and local communities to appoint seniors to boards and committees.
- Reviewed information on income levels of seniors receiving benefits from Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Saskatchewan Income Plan and Spouse's Allowance.
- Reviewed the National Advisory Council on Aging Position Paper on Community Services in Health Care for Seniors.
- Presented a brief to the Canadian Radio-Television Commission on competition in telephone long distance service.
- Responded to Saskatchewan Future Directions in Health Care Report.
- Recommended that government look at ways to encourage the development of Programs for Seniors' Services and Well Elderly Clinics without jeopardizing existing funding.
- Reviewed a proposal for Long Term Care Inservice Resource Centre.
- Reviewed the Consensus Saskatchewan report.
- Reviewed University of Regina's Saskatchewan Seniors Fitness and Lifestyle Research Project.
- Contacted 17 provincial seniors' organizations to outline Council's issues and exchange information.

During 1990-91, the Chairperson and/or Council members participated in various activities including:

- Project to Improve Victim Services in Regina.

- Minister's Advisory Committee on Safe Use of Medicines.
- Workshop on the Family during April Council meeting to provide Family Foundation with a seniors' perspective on family issues.
- Canadian Federation of Senior Citizens Centres.
- Meeting with western federal cabinet ministers to discuss seniors' issues.
- Meeting with other provincial seniors' advisory bodies during Canadian Association on Gerontology Annual Conference.
- Learning Unlimited Conference.
- Housing for Saskatchewan Elderly Conference.
- Saskatchewan Gerontology Association Annual Meeting.
- Canadian Association on Gerontology Annual Meeting.
- Annual Meeting of Saskatchewan Home Care Association.
- Radio and television interviews.

Membership During 1990-91

Miss Madge McKillop, **Chairperson**, Saskatoon
Mrs. Marjorie Wettergreen, **Vice-Chairperson**, Prince Albert
Mrs. Doris Balkwill, Regina
Mr. Dave Bowers, Weyburn
Mr. John Herne, Hudson Bay
Mrs. Gladys Johnston, Leask
Reverend Glen McLean, Eston
Mr. Alex McLeod, Swift Current
Mr. Verne Morrison, Melfort
Mrs. Irene Neilson, Craik
Ms Brenda Righetti, Regina
Mrs. Doreen Roberts, Regina
Mr. Charles Watson, Saskatoon
Ms Marjorie Willson, Moosomin

Retired: Mr. Ted Azevedo, Nipawin; Mr. Ernest Crowe, Craven; Mrs. Moira Gautron, Battleford; Mr. Reinhold Senft, Neudorf; Mrs. Marjorie Wiseman, Rosetown.

Meeting of the Saskatchewan Senior Citizens' Provincial Council

Saskatchewan's Seniors

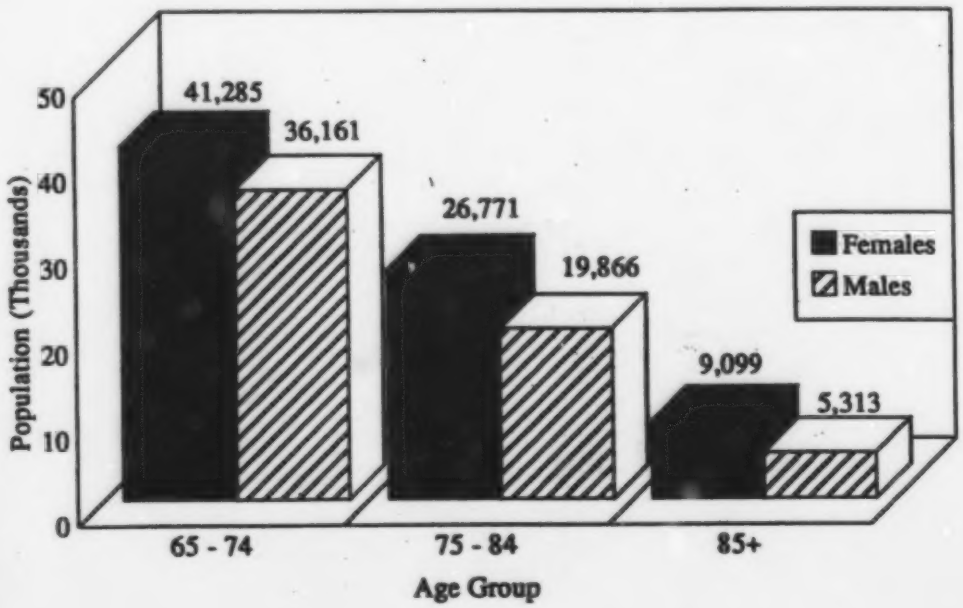
The Saskatchewan population is aging. The 1990 Covered Population Report from Saskatchewan Health indicates there were 138,495 individuals age 65+ residing in the province on June 30, 1990. This represents a net increase of 2,160 seniors from the previous year.

The latest figures continue the trend of an increasing seniors' population in absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total population. The 138,495 seniors represent 13.5 percent of the total provincial population of 1,029,352, up from 13.2 percent on June 30, 1989. Saskatchewan has one of the highest proportions of seniors of any province in Canada.

Figure 1 indicates the majority of seniors in Saskatchewan are the "young elderly" represented by the age group 65-74. The 77,446 individuals in this age group comprise 55.9 percent of the seniors' population.

There are more female seniors than male seniors. Table 5 indicates that women comprise 55.7 percent of the seniors' population compared to 44.3 percent for males. This difference is

Figure 1
Saskatchewan Seniors' Population By Age Group, 1990



Source: Covered Population Report, 1990, Saskatchewan Health

significant with female seniors outnumbering male seniors by 15,815 or 25.8 percent of the male senior population.

Overall, there were 126 female seniors per 100 male seniors in Saskatchewan. The difference is larger for the age group 75+ where there were 142 female seniors per 100 male seniors.

Table 5
Total Seniors' Population, 1990

	Number	Percentage
Males 65+	61,340	44.3
Females 65+	77,155	55.7
Total	138,495	100.0

Source: Covered Population Report, 1990, Saskatchewan Health.

The largest percentage of Saskatchewan seniors resided in cities. Table 6 indicates that 45.9 percent of seniors lived in cities compared to 26.9 percent in towns, 10.1 percent in villages, 15.8 percent in rural municipalities and 1.3 percent on Indian reserves. The proportion of seniors living outside of cities was 54.1 percent.

Table 6
Distribution of Saskatchewan Seniors' Population by Place of Residence, 1990.

	Total Age 65+	
	Number	Percentage
Cities	63,511	45.9
Towns	37,296	26.9
Villages	13,936	10.1
Rural Municipalities	21,914	15.8
Indian Reserves	1,838	1.3
Total	138,495	100.0

Source: Covered Population Report, 1990, Saskatchewan Health.

There are differences in where male seniors and female seniors reside. More women lived in cities (49.1 percent) and towns (27.9 percent) compared to men (41.8 percent and 25.7 percent, respectively). However, 32.5 percent of men lived in villages, rural municipalities and Indian reserves compared to 23.0 percent of women.

Gender ratios highlight these differences across the province. The cities had the highest ratio with 148 female seniors per 100 male seniors. The lowest ratio was 74 female seniors per 100 male seniors in rural municipalities.

The number of seniors is expected to increase steadily in the future. Statistics Canada has produced a series of population projections for Canada and the provinces. The 1986 Census populations served as the basis for the projections. Figure 2 illustrates the significant increase in the projected size of the seniors' population.

The proportion of seniors in Saskatchewan is projected to increase to 15.6 percent of the provincial population by 2011. Similarly, seniors will comprise 24.5 percent of the Canadian population by 2036. It is not unrealistic to assume the proportion of seniors in Saskatchewan in 2036 will approximate the national figure of 24.5 percent.

The seniors' population for Saskatchewan is projected to increase from the 1986 base of 128,600 to 156,300 in 2011. The projections for the seniors' population in Canada increases dramatically from 2,697,580 in 1986 to 8,400,000 in 2036.

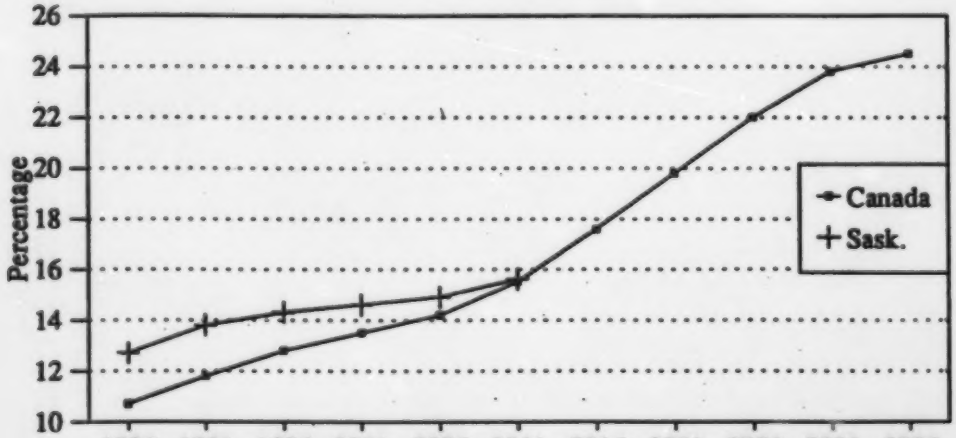
The Saskatchewan seniors' population will increase in each year of the projections. The current growth in the number of seniors will start to slow around the year 2000 as individuals born in the mid to late 1930s turn age 65. The growth, however, will accelerate toward the end of the first decade of the 21st century as the baby boom generation enters the senior years.

The increase in the size of the senior population in Saskatchewan will be accompanied by the aging of this group in the short term. This is best illustrated by the age group 65-74 which will comprise less than 50 percent of seniors by 2011. Most of this can be attributed to women age 75+ who will outnumber the number of women age 64-74.

These changes will have a profound impact on the way we organize our health, social services and other community supports in the future.

Figure 2

Seniors' Population as a Proportion of the Total Population, 1986-2036



	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Canada	10.7	11.8	12.8	13.5	14.2	15.5	17.6	19.8	22	23.8	24.5
Sask.	12.7	13.8	14.3	14.6	14.9	15.6					

Source: Census of Canada, 1911-1986, Statistics Canada; Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories, 1989-2011, 91-520, Statistics Canada.